GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3339
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2012
QUANTUM OF WATER RELEASED
Bairwa Shri Khiladi Lal

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether low quantum of water is released by Punjab and Haryana to Rajasthan and there is fluctuation in it;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) whether storage capacity of water body Harike has declined drastically due to which fluctuation could not be controlled for a long time;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(e) whether the Government of Punjab has worked out any plan to restore its storage capacity and if so, the details and the cost thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b)According to Rajasthan, short and erratic supplies are passed on by Punjab. According to Punjab, releases are being made by it to Rajasthan, as per decisions taken in the meetings of Technical Committee of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) and any excess/ short supply at Harike Head Works is shared in the same ratio as decided by BBMB on pro rata basis. According to BBMB, Rajasthan had received shortages during some period due to fluctuations in supplies from Ranjit Sagar dam. At the 203rd meeting of BBMB held on 7.5.2010, the Member from Punjab had assured that the situation would not crop up again and had requested BBMB authorities to bring to his notice in the case of any problem in the release of decided water from Ranjit Sagar dam. BBMB has also been requesting the other partner States namely Punjab and Haryana to supply correct and agreed deliveries to Rajasthan.

As informed by the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB), Rajasthan gets no Yamuna water from Hathnikund (Tajewala) Barrage and gets less than the allocated share from Okhla Barrage. In a meeting of Upper Yamuna Review Committee held on 19.07.11, it was proposed to Haryana and Rajasthan to resolve the issue of supply of Rajasthan's allocation at Tajewa la bilaterally and they agreed. Regarding the issue of supply of full share of Rajasthan at Okhla, the Member Secretary, UYRB had inspected the Gurgaon canal in 2010 and advised Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to undertake desilting and repair works to restore the designed capacity of the canal and stop enroute unauthorised lifting of water. UYRB has advised Uttar Pradesh and Haryana from time to time to ensure that full share of Rajasthan reaches its border. Engineers of Haryana and Rajasthan have also carried out a joint inspection on 28.06.2012 and UYRB has requested Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to explore the possibility of patrolling by joint police force.

(c) to (e) As per available information from Government of Punjab, the original storage capacity of Harike Head works had been reduced from 67,900 acre-feet to 9,173 acre- feet due to siltation, vegetation etc. and the State Government had worked out plan to restore the capacity using dredger / barge etc. at a cost of about Rs. 50 crores.